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SUBJECT: DENMARK BACKS FIRM LINE AGAINST MAURITANIAN JUNTA

REF: STATE 13962

(SBU) Responding to reftel demarche February 17, Bjorn Blau of the Danish MFA's Africa Department indicated that Denmark shares U.S. concerns and will back expected EU action in support of the AU's recent measures on Mauritania. Blau noted that fishing and other economic concerns had softened the stance of some EU member states (with the curious result of the AU taking a tougher line than the EU, Blau observed), but insisted that Denmark has no such reservations about taking a strict, principled approach in support of human rights. Blau welcomed the strong U.S. position outlined in our points and offered to provide us with an update following the February 20 EU meeting in Paris.
MCCULLEY